

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

4th July 1951.

To the Chairman and Members
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Apart from the increased incidence of poliomyelitis in the area, referred to in a special report presented to you at the beginning of this year, there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease and the health of the district during the year remained good.

As I write this report I have before me the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for your district for the year 1900. I note that in that year out of every thousand babies born 68 died before reaching the age of one year. In 1950 only 15 such babies died. This decrease in the infant mortality rate is a fair indication of the improved conditions under which babies are born and live at the present time compared with 50 years ago.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect to the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burt, for his co-operation and his assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Bob Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 0.

- A. Area - 42,000 acres.
Rateable Value - £39,432.
Production of a penny rate - £158.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9067

LIVE BIRTHS.

Comparative figures for
(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.

	Male.	Female.			
Total	55	75	} Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.3		
Legitimate	51	71			
Illegitimate	4	4		15.6	15.8

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = Nil	0.2	0.3
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DEATHS.

Total	70	54	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.6	13.4	11.6
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Deaths in infants under 1 one year	1	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 15.3	24.2	29.8
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Deaths from Tuberculosis - 2
Deaths from maternal causes - Nil

Climatic conditions.

Rain or snow fell on 191 days during the year. On five occasions during the year over 1" of rain fell in 24 hours, the 20th November being the wettest with 1.34 inches.

Rainfall month by month was as follows:-

January	.37 inches	July	5.15 inches
February	5.35 "	August	5.11 "
March	1.17 "	September	4.12 "
April	3.32 "	October	1.40 "
May	1.77 "	November	6.50 "
June	1.43 "	December	2.53 "

The total rainfall for the year = 38.22 inches. Comparative figures for the preceding three years were as follows:-

1949	=	25.02 inches
1948	=	33.42 inches
1947	2	25.94 inches

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

As reported last year, under the National Health Service Act 1946, the personal health services, the Ambulance Service, and the Laboratory Services, are provided by the Ministry of Health or County Council.

I do not think that it is necessary to draw your attention to any matters concerned with these services, with the exception that I should like to record that the County Council's Domestic Help Service has been operating in your district since the 1st April.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

W.E. Breeds, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.S.I.B. - Sanitary Inspector.
Lt.Col. T. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S., (part-time for meat inspection only).

Clerical staff - one clerk (full-time).

2. WATER SUPPLY.

The serious shortage of water supply present during the preceding year was not experienced during the year under review, principally on account of the wet summer, with its decreased agricultural consumption. The Council was able to augment the Borough Council's supply.

New works carried out during the year. The only major new works carried out during the year was the work on the construction of the new 400,000 gallon reservoir at Bowden.

New connections were provided as follows:-

- (i) for domestic use 170
- (ii) for agricultural purposes 63

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Mains supply inside.</u>	<u>Outside standpipes.</u>	<u>Spring or well.</u>
Ashmore	28	27	5
Bourton	130	48	20
Buckhorn Weston	93	10	2
Cann	96	12	2
Compton Abbas	57	7	13
East Orchard	24	8	7
East Stour	93	37	3
Fontmell Magna	114	24	11
Gillingham	732	199	8
Iwerne Minster	116	4	7
Kington Magna	57	38	8
Margaret Marsh	11	2	-
Melbury Abbas	59	19	8
Motcombe	167	49	3
Silton	22	24	2
Stour Provost	104	28	9
Sutton Waldron	24	7	15
Todber	26	4	3
West Orchard	14	9	-
West Stour	24	-	36

Bacteriological examination of water supplies.

The following table gives particulars of the number of sample of water taken (before chlorination) for bacteriological examination, and the results obtained shown in accordance with Ministry of Health classification:-

<u>Source of sample.</u>	<u>No. taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Melbury Abbas	11	All highly satisfactory.
Reservoir for Gillingham at Mere	9	7 highly satisfactory 2 satisfactory.
Boync Hollow	15	3 highly satisfactory 6 Satisfactory

Motcombe	14	9 highly satisfactory. 4 suspicious. 1 unsatisfactory.
Fontmell Magna Private Supply	2	1 satisfactory 1 unsatisfactory
Other supplies	4	1 satisfactory 2 unsatisfactory 1 suspicious.

In addition, 3 samples were submitted for chemical analysis.

A proposal was made during the year to take a limited temporary supply of water from the new borehole sunk at Stubbampton. When it became clear that there were no proposals to deal with the inadequate sanitation of the cottages around the borehole, preparatory to taking this supply, it was necessary for me to remind the Council of the risk of dangerous pollution of the water from this source, and at the end of the year the policy of the Council with regard to taking a temporary supply from this source had not been finally determined.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new sewerage works were undertaken during the year with the exception of the provision of small installations of septic tanks and filters to new Council housing estates.

Post-war Sewerage Schemes. No material progress was made during the year toward the implementation of the Council's programme of parish sewerage schemes, but the preparatory work has been undertaken in the anticipation that Ministry of Health local enquiries will be held during 1951 in connection with proposed schemes for the parishes of Kington Magna, Buckhorn Weston and Bourton.

Provision of adequate sewerage arrangements in the town of Gillingham and other parishes in the district remain as one of the outstanding needs of the district. With the appointment of the newly constituted Devon and Dorset Rivers Board it can be expected that increasing pressure will be brought to bear against the pollution of rivers and streams by untreated sewage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse and Salvage. The service for the collection of house refuse and salvage has remained the same as in the preceding years. A weekly collection is made in Gillingham and a monthly collection throughout the remainder of the district.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was as follows:-

	t.	cwt.	qrs.
Mixed Paper	66.	0.	1.
Rags	2.	19.	1.
Brass		1.	3.
Heavy Scrap	14.	9.	2.
News	1.	5.	5.
Books	1.	19.	0.
Bagging	3.	5.	0.
Copper			1.
Bones	1.	15.	2.
Aluminium		1.	2.
Total -	91.	17.	3.

(b) Cesspool Emptying. No cesspool emptying is undertaken by the Council.

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Efforts have continued to be made during the year toward the prevention of intermittent pollution of the stream in Iwerne Minster village from drainage from the Iwerne Minster Bacon Factory. The Company has applied for connection to the Council's sewer under the provisions of the Public

Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act 1937. A Ministry of Health local inquiry is at present being awaited in connection with this application.

There is evidence of stream pollution in most parishes, and the pollution of the river from the factory effluents and crude sewage of Gillingham continues as before.

6. SHOPS ACT.

No. of inspections carried out	12
No. of defects found	Nil
No. of notices served	Nil
No. of notices complied with	Nil

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	15	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	34	10	3
Total	49	16	3
<u>No. of cases in which defects were --</u>			
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>

Sanitary Conveniences:-

unsuitable or defective:	3	2	3
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No. of outworkers = 72.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Informal action was taken in respect to smoke nuisance from one factory in the district, and the nuisance was abated by the use of superior fuel.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no swimming bath to which the public have access in the district.

Although quite unfit for the purpose by reason of pollution from crude sewage, the river and its tributaries at Gillingham are used for bathing purposes. When poliomyelitis was prevalent in the district during the summer months, the attention of the public was drawn to the danger of bathing in these polluted streams.

10. CAMPING SITES.

Two sites each for one caravan were licensed during the year.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Disinfestation of one house infested with fleas was carried out during the year.

12. RATS AND MICE.

The scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee has continued to work satisfactorily during the year. It is to be recorded that your Council has now agreed to the treatment of private houses without charge being made on the occupiers, except where infestation is a result of neglect of the occupiers. It is proposed to continue to use this Joint Committee in connection with giving effect to the relevant section of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

13. RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 - 1922.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

14. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

Inspections of school canteens were carried out during the year and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year under this section.

16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	145
(b)	No. of inspections made	219
(2) (1)	No. of informal notices served	28
(2) (2)	No. of informal notices complied with	23
(3) (3)	No. of statutory notices served	5
(4) (4)	No. of statutory notices complied with	1
(3) (1)	No. of housing reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	7
(2)	Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -	
(a)	Demolition Orders made	4
(b)	Undertakings accepted for -	
(i)	Closure	Nil
(ii)	re-conditioning	2
(c)	Other Action	1
(4)	<u>Overcrowding.</u>	
(a)	No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	Nil
(b)	No. of cases of overcrowding abated	2
(c)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Total No. of working class houses in the district 2656

Rural Housing Survey.

Classification.	No. of inspections during 1950.		No. of inspections before 1950.	
	Detailed.		Prelim.	Detailed.
Cat.1. Satisfactory	-		216	2
Cat.2. Requiring minor repairs	1		501	6
Cat.3. Requiring minor repairs, alterations or improvement	21		629	40
Cat.4. Appropriate for re-conditioning	24		369	69
Cat.5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	22		398	76

Requisitioned premises etc.

40 houses were held under requisition at the end of the year.
3 houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
(a) During 1950	Nil	Nil	86	Nil
(b) Post-War	Nil	8	130	44

(including Airey)

Housing Act 1949.

One application was received for improvement grant under the Housing Act 1949. The result of this application was not determined by the end of the year.

Comments.

Very real progress was made with regard to the Council's new housing programme during the year. 86 houses have been provided as compared with 32 during the preceding year.

During the year 6 recommendations for the granting of priority on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 15 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Rent Charges.

There appears to be an increasing tendency of applicants for Council houses having to refuse a house when offered to them on account of the higher rents which are now being charged, and an increase in the number of occupants living in the newer Council houses who seek transfer to older and lower rented houses.

If this tendency continues, the whole principal of housing by local authorities will be negatived, for those with large families living in sub-standard houses will be the first to have to refuse a Council house when offered to them, and it is for such families that local authorities were first empowered to provide houses.

It is not difficult to appreciate that a large family who are possibly somewhat unthrifty and who are living under very unsatisfactory conditions cannot accept the offer of a highly rented Council house. Less obvious is the problem of the thrifty black-coated (or semi black-coated) worker in the lower income group who is anxious to maintain as decent a standard as possible for his wife and family, but who finds a high rent takes an undue proportion from his pay packet. If such an applicant accepts a highly rented house, some de-privations must be endured. It is the wife and mother who first goes hungry.

Bearing in mind that the new houses now provided are to last for at least 60 years, I do not feel that the standard of new houses, as laid down by the Ministry of Health, can reasonably be reduced to an appreciable extent.

It is argued by some that the persons in the higher income groups should not be allowed to occupy subsidized houses, at the same time, we see that there are those in the lowest income groups who are often unable to afford to live in these houses.

It would appear that consideration of a differential rate scheme might prove necessary to overcome this anomaly.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Byelaws in respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air, were adopted by the Council during the year.

1. Milk.

(a) Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949
by the District Council under regulation 14 of the
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 3

- (b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 _____ 1
- (c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 2
- (d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 _____ 2

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin-Tested	10
Accredited	6
Pasteurised	69

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 _____ 55

No. of such premises inspected during the year _____ 30

No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 _____ 29

No. of such premises registered in respect to -

(a) Ice-cream _____ 18

(b) Sausages & prepared meats _____ 10

No. of such premises inspected during the year _____

No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test _____ Nil

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed (if known) _____	59,110
Number inspected _____	59,110

All disease except Tuberculosis.

Whole carcase condemned _____	16
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned _____	Nil

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcase condemned _____	248
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned _____	4780
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis _____	7.6

(b) Butchers and other shops.

Quantities condemned:-

Beef	-	45 lbs.
Pigs	-	114 lbs.

Other Foods. Quantities condemned:-

Condensed Milk	48 lbs.	Veal and Ham Leaf	202½ lbs.
Evaporated Milk	5	Jellied Veal	4
Corn Flakes	21	Sausages	24
Sugar	42	Apricot Pulp	44
Cheese	7	Apricots	30
Margarine	20		

TOTAL = 447½ lbs.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out _____ 16
 No. of disinfections carried out _____ 3

19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings) _____ 989
 Total No. of informal notices served _____ 42
 Total No. of informal notices complied with _____ 37
 Total No. of statutory notices served _____ 5
 Total No. of statutory notices complied with _____ 1
 No. of prosecutions _____ 4

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

Incidence -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	7	-
Measles	35	-
Whooping cough	2	-
Poliomyelitis	7	3

A special report on the occurrence of poliomyelitis was submitted to you at the close of the year and no further comment is necessary.

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases Notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
5	2	2	-

Food Poisoning - 3 cases.

NOEL F. PEARSON
 Medical Officer of Health.